CLAIMS

1. A protected lamp assembly comprising:

a. a tubular lamp element having energizing electrodes adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding said lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof; and

d. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

2. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 1, above, further including end cap means mounted at the ends of said protective housing element.

3. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 2, above, wherein said lamp support members are attached to and are integral with said end cap means.

4. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 1, above, wherein said conductive means include a conductive coating in electrical contact with said electrodes.

5. A protected lamp assembly as in Claim 2, wherein said conductive means include a conductor extending from one of the energizing electrodes to and through the end cap at the opposite end of said lamp element.

6. A protected lamp assembly comprising:

a. at least one tubular lamp element having energizing electrodes adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding said lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof; and

d. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

7. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 6, above, further including;

a. a second tubular lamp element having energizing electrodes adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy, said protective housing element surrounding said second lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding said second lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof; and

d. conductive means for coupling said second lamp electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

8. A protected lamp assembly comprising:

a. a tubular lamp element having energizing electrodes adapted to be coupled to a source of electrical energy;

b. a protective housing element surrounding said lamp element and substantially coextensive therewith;

c. resilient lamp support members for holding said lamp element within said protective housing element spaced apart from the interior surfaces thereof;

d. end cap means mounted at the ends of said protective housing element; and

e. conductive means for coupling said electrodes to a source of energy exterior to said protective housing element.

9. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 8, above, wherein said lamp support members are attached to and are integral with said end cap means.

10. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 9, above, wherein said conductive means include elements extending out of said end cap means which are adapted to connect to a source of energy.

11. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 9, above, wherein said conductive means further include a conductor connected to one of the energizing electrodes at one end of said tubular lamp element, said conductor extending to the opposite end of said tubular lamp element and through said end cap means whereby a source of energy need only be applied to one end of the protected lamp assembly.

12. The protected lamp assembly of Claim 8, above, wherein said conductive means include a conductive coating in electrical contact with said electrodes.